

**ABSTRACT****NATURAL LANGUAGE SEARCH METHOD AND APPARATUS**

A method and apparatus for performing a search for  
5 information containing natural language is disclosed  
which uses a natural language query. The query is input  
in the form of units of the natural language and this is  
matched with units in the natural language of the data.  
Where there are unmatched units in the query and/or the  
10 data, context data in the form of one or more unmatched  
units of the query and/or the data is generated. Each  
unmatched unit as a predefined linguistic relationship to  
one of the or each matched unit. Output data is formed  
as matched units with any respective context data.